

QUESTIONS ABOUT... *CONFINED SPACES?*

Laboratory procedures governing the safe entry of confined spaces are contained in Chapter 5063 of the Fermilab ES&H Manual (see <http://www-esh.fnal.gov/FESHM/5000/5063.htm>). Below are answers to questions that were recently posed to the ES&H Section about confined spaces. They provide additional information that can be of use to personnel involved in confined space entry, as well as to their supervisors and ES&H personnel.



Q 1: Should the Fire Department be contacted prior to entering a permit-required confined space?

A 1: Yes. The shift commander of the Fermilab Fire Department must be notified prior to entering a permit-required confined space. This can be accomplished via phone (X3428) or by providing them with a copy of the permit. This pre-entry notification provides the Fire Department with knowledge of permit-required confined space entries in the event that an emergency rescue is required.

Q 2: How often is the confined space air monitoring equipment calibrated?

A 2: The air monitoring equipment must be field calibrated ***prior to each use***. This calibration must be documented on a separate log sheet. In addition, air monitoring equipment is calibrated by the ES&H Section's Instrument Maintenance and Calibration Group (IMAC) ***every 6 months***. You should periodically check that your instruments are not past due for their six month IMAC calibration. Some additional points to remember regarding the use of confined space monitoring equipment:

1. The remote sampling hose must not exceed ten feet. In addition, the pump hose assembly should be equipped with both a particulate filter and a water trap. These can be obtained from [Darrel Bancroft](#) of the IMAC group at X4625.
2. Avoid using the TMX412 monitor charging stations on the "discharge" mode. This creates excessive heat loading which shortens battery life. Note: The TMX412 monitor should be placed on the charging station when it is not in use. The same holds true for the remote pump sampler.
3. If the instrument fails any of the field calibration checks, the instrument is considered

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defective and must not be used for any purpose. Bring defective instruments directly to IMAC at Site 38.

If you have any additional questions about confined space air monitoring equipment, contact [Darrel Bancroft](#) at X4625.

Q 3: Is there a computer database listing of confined spaces?

A 3: Yes. There is a computer database listing of confined spaces on the ES&H Shared Volume (see ESHSERVER1, ESH_SHARED, Confined_Space). It is the responsibility of division/section ES&H organizations to maintain its accuracy. Database modifications may be necessitated by construction activities or organizational changes.

Q 4: Does Fermilab provide confined space entry equipment to subcontractors?

A 4: No. It is the subcontractor's responsibility to provide all of their own monitoring and personal protective equipment (PPE), such as air monitors, lifelines, harnesses, respirators, tripods, ventilators, etc., as specified by the contract. In addition, the subcontractor is required to provide the Fermilab contracts administrator with the following, prior to any pre-construction meeting:

1. A written copy of their confined space entry program.
2. Training records for potential entrants, attendants, and supervisors.
3. A calibration log of their air monitoring equipment.

Q 5: Are Entrants required to carry a TMX 412 Multi-gas monitor with them when they enter a confined space?

A 5: Not necessarily. If the entire confined space is capable of being monitored from outside by the attendant then the answer is no. However, most entrants will likely want to bring a monitor with them. If the confined space is configured so that the attendant is unable to monitor the entire space then entrants must take a Multi-gas monitor with them while inside the confined space. Keep in mind that the attendant must continually monitor the confined space as well. There is always a chance that an outside atmospheric hazard may be introduced into the confined space.

If you have any additional questions regarding confined spaces, feel free to contact [Dave Baird](#) at X3945 or [Bob Arnold](#) at X8001.